

Tilburg University

Open access to institutional repositories

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Open Access to Institutional Repositories: A core business for libraries

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Two types of open access e-print archives (cf. EC report)

- Subject-based archives (emerged in domains with long tradition for exchanging pre-prints and where speed of publication is key: physics, computer science)
- Institutional Repositories (typically including theses and dissertations, conference papers and published articles)

Interoperability promoted by OAI-PMH released in 2001

SPARC definition of an Institutional Repository

- An institutional repository is a digital archive of the intellectual products created by the faculty, research staff, and students of an institution and accessible to end users both within and outside of the institution.
- In other words, the “ideal” content of an institutional repository is:
 - Institutionally defined;
 - Scholarly;
 - Cumulative and perpetual;
 - Open and interoperable.
- The reality is a bit more complicated

Open Access (IFLA definition)

- Free, world-wide, perpetual right of access to, copy, use, distribute the work publicly
- Complete version of the work and all supplemental materials

Main advantages of Open Access (EC study)

- No barriers to access
- Interoperability of OA archives improves visibility, search efficiency and access to research results
- Subject based archives contribute to fast dissemination of research and provide efficient centralised access
- Institutional repositories contribute to raise the profile of the institution
- Enhanced visibility and accessibility may lead to higher citations

Useful comments of ARL on Open Access

- Open Access operates within the current legal framework of copyright law
- Open Access is intended to be free for readers, not for producers (!)
- Open Access does not mean that peer review is by-passed

How does Open Access journal publishing relate to IR ?

- Institutional repositories can work with Open Access publishing, but not necessarily
- The open access publishing model with “Open Access journals” can work for some disciplines
- Springer paved the way by offering the opportunity for Open Access publishing under their umbrella
- Elsevier is following this line now
- But it is unlikely that it will be THE new business model.

Institutional Repositories coming up everywhere, but..

- More than 600 institutional repositories in the world
- Many initiatives in Europe en Australia
- US is not leading
- In few countries a national approach
- Still a gap between ambition and reality
- As yet, no significant impact on commercial scholarly publishing

IR: What is the added value for the author?

- Further publicising the work
- Research becomes more visible and accessible
- Simple and free access
- Back-up system for his/her publications will be created
- Saving time
- Possibility to create dynamic publication lists in an easy way

Institutional Repositories: role of library

- Most universities are pleased that library is taking up a central role in this area
- The library discusses the IR ideas with deans, research directors and heads of departments. Their support is essential.
- Library creates an IR in cooperation with IT Department.
- The library is the organiser of the process
- Applies standards
- Adds Metadata
- Contacts and stimulates researchers
- Responsible for maintenance and continuity

Cooperation Library and Computing Services

- Clifford Lynch:...” in a study we conducted on institutional repositories, it was clear that an alliance between the library and the IT groups often led the way.”

DARE

- Started in January 2004
- Network of repositories in the Netherlands
- Developed by SURF
- With Government funding
- Currently 71,178 digital documents
- from 16 organisations

DARE : Cream of Science

- 200 top Dutch Academics
- 40.000 + publications
- 60% full text
- Focus on top scientists would pave the way for further extension and support in the departments

<http://www.creamofscience.org/>

DARE: near future

- Extend content to 150.000 full text documents
- National Theses site
- Promise of Science: focus on promising young researchers who are at the beginning of their career.

Nereus

- Network of prominent economics libraries in Europe
- Subject based international cooperation
- LSE, Oxford, UC London, Warwick, UC Dublin, UL de Bruxelles, KU Leuven, Rotterdam, Maastricht, Sciences Po Paris, Kiel, Carlos III Madrid, Charles University Prague, Vienna Business School
- Focus on content: working papers, repositories, statistical databases - added value for economists
- Current key activity: Economists Online

Nereus: joint work on “Economists Online”

- IR in all partner institutions
- IR requires international approach and international cooperation
- Subject based
- Advisory board of top economists
- <http://nereus.uvt.nl/eo>

IR: Critical success factors

- Quality of the validation status is unclear
- Sometimes multiple versions in same repository
- Running costs usually borne by institutions
- Copyright problems / Publisher's policy
- Critical mass is still too limited
- Contribution of top scientists is required to attract the mainstream of researchers/authors
- Differences between the disciplines should be taken into account

Some important recommendations of EC Study on IR and OA

- Articles funded from the European sources should be available in open access
- Explore with member states and with research and academic organisations on whether and how such policies and open repositories could be implemented by research funding bodies and research institutions in Member states

However, the question is who is going to do what

EC Study ends with speculative note

- Repositories can be used potentially to unbundle diffusion from certification.
- Comment: this is not a new idea....

The Author is Key

- For many researchers: it's all about reputation
- Registration, Selection, Refereeing, Archiving remain important
- Can institutional repositories attract the authors?
- Is the Institutional Repository the main gate for publishing or an intermediate for publishing by the established publishers?
- Authors want to see a benefit in contributing to the IR

Faculty response to IR proposal at Tilburg University

- “..The faculty feels that it is important to have recent publications available online, as it increases the visibility of our researchers, as well as speeding up the research process, and we are therefore willing to cooperate with the library in implementing the procedure...”
- The faculty would prefer to have all output of its researchers online.
- The publisher’s version is the preferred version of an article.
- The only condition is that copyright matters are properly dealt with.

My personal view

Future: all basic information will be free, but you will have to pay for added value (such as quality control, refereeing)

- The question is who will pay and who will get the benefits.
- Institutional repositories could be an excellent basis for new business models.
- Libraries should take up a prominent role in this development and liaise with collaboratories of researchers and with professional societies.

A final remark

- Only the research community can change the process of scholarly communication. Libraries can help, support, stimulate and pave the way.
- Your comments please
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